

1 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer/ODP

STAT

FROM : [REDACTED]
Configuration Management Branch

STAT

THROUGH : [REDACTED]
Chief, Engineering Division

SUBJECT : Evaluation of FIPS Specification for
Magnetic Tape Cartridges, Cassettes, and
6250 CPI Group Coded Recording (GCR)

1. This specification appears to reflect the current state of the art for magnetic tape recording techniques on cartridge tapes, cassette tapes and half inch nine track tape at 6250 CPI, GCR. As such, this specification would lock ODP into the current technology for magnetic tape recording. These specifications are too rigid to allow for future technological developments. As new ADP technologies are developed and used industry wide, new FIPS specifications are usually written so these technologies are properly used by the Federal Government. The FIPS is often written to describe a particular manufacturer's product. However, there is a significant time lag, perhaps two to five years, before the FIPS is written. Therefore, adoption of these standards could inhibit ODP from benefiting from newly developed tape processing technologies.

2. This FIPS document states that a waiver procedure for this tape standard is being defined by the Department of Commerce. This procedure will be stated in a later printed version of this FIPS publication. If this procedure is reviewed and found acceptable, this FIPS specification could be adopted without significant harm to ODP.

3. If this FIPS specification applies only to inter-agency data interchange via magnetic tape, then this FIPS would be acceptable. ODP would then not be restricted in the tape technologies employed in its internal operations. However, if the FIPS applies to both external and internal data interchange then an acceptable waiver procedure would be required.



STAT

Distribution:

- 0 + 1 - adse
- 1 - C/ED
- 1 - C/CMB
- 2 - chronos